

16 JAN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

FROM: John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act.

REFERENCE: OLC Memorandum # 77-5748, dated
30 December 1977.

25X1 1. ☐ This responds to referent request for
comments and suggestions on possible amendments to the
Freedom of Information Act.

25X1 2. ☐ The Directorate has in the past contributed
to a number of Agency memoranda concerning the impact of
the Freedom of Information Act on Directorate activity.
Additional experience in coping with the provisions of
the Act has confirmed the observations in those earlier
memoranda, among which we note particularly from last
year OGC 77-2225 and OGC 77-2759.

25X1 3. ☐ We further note the nearly 65 percent
increase in Freedom of Information requests in 1977 as
compared with 1976. Much of the work which is responsive
to FOIA requests falls to this Directorate, which has
observed that most requests now originate with readily
discernible categories of persons. Among them are members
of the media. The selective publicity given to portions
of material released under the Act has, we know from field
station commentary, begun to erode confidence in the
Directorate's ability to protect both operational and
intelligence information.

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